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## NOTES AND NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF SPECIALISTS AND CURRENT RESEARCH IN PLANT SYSTEMATICS

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation has received a grant from the U. S. National Science Foundation to produce an international register accounting for both specialists and individual research projects in systematic botany. The *Register*, to be produced in both computerized and published forms, will revive and incorporate the now dormant "Index of Current Research" previously sponsored by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and "Register of Specialists" produced by the International Association for Plant Taxonomy. This new *Register* project is being undertaken with the endorsements and assistance of both those organizations. Financial assistance has also been received from the U. S. National Park Service, through the New York Botanical Garden.

Questionnaires and accompanying instructions (trilingual: English, French, German) will be distributed within the systematic botanical community starting in November 1978. Major means of distribution will include enclosure in individual copies of *Taxon* (first 1979 mailing) and *Systematic Botany*, and by mailing modest supplies to selected botanical institutions and academies of science. These forms have been designed to permit easy photoduplication, which is strongly encouraged. Anyone working in systematic botany (including its history, bibliography, art, and applications to structural, ecological and evolutionary botany) is urged to fill out and return a questionnaire by 31 August 1979. Those not receiving questionnaires directly should obtain them (or photocopies) from a convenient botanical institution or can request them by writing to: Hunt Institute, Attention Register, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 USA. Such direct requests should be made only if the materials are unavailable through the other channels.

The first printed edition of the *Register* will be published in spring 1980. Thereafter, with adequate continuing assistance from the botanical community and its sponsors, the Institute plans to maintain the *Register* as an active computerized data base and to produce succeeding printed editions triennially. A copy of the published *Register* will be sent without charge to each questionnaire respondent as well as to relevant institutions and governmental agencies. Reasonable special query service will be available to the public at no or minimal cost upon application to the Institute. This may involve special permutations of the data, or simply requests for up-to-date information on a given topic during the periods between successive published editions.

The utility of the *Register* to both the botanical community and the general public will depend in large measure upon its comprehensiveness. To maximize coverage, the Institute is requesting the cooperation and active assistance of botanists and their institutions on a worldwide basis.